



NYSP TODAY

The Official NYSP Magazine - Spring 2023



**Our Stories
Must Be Told**
How NYSP inspired our success



“Working with the youth of Greater Cleveland since 1980 has been one of my greatest honors.”

Dennis L. Harris, NYSP Director

Working with the youth of Greater Cleveland since 1980 has been one of the greatest honors of my professional career. Over the years, I witnessed thousands of youth grow up and become productive members of our society. I have worked for the National Youth Sports Program at Case Western Reserve University since the summer of 1988. I've watched our NYSP program participants matriculate through colleges and universities, then on to professional careers. Our former NYSP program participants are successful parents, homemakers, professional athletes, health professionals, educators and much more. Each one of the thousands of former NYSP program participants has a story to tell and here are just a few of those that we must tell.

NYSP
*Giving
youth the
right start!*



"NYSP helped me develop character and social skills"

Mahogany Jones

The first time I attended NYSP (National Youth Sports Program), I was 10 years old. The camp allowed Cleveland youth from ages 10-16 to attend. I attended all eligible years. My first summer there I was excited to meet new kids from all over the city. My favorite activities at the camp were flag football and track & field. NYSP introduced me to the sport of Track & Field. I learned the fundamentals of running and the warm up drills that were crucial before training and competition. During the last week of camp, I really enjoyed the end of camp competitions. Each group would compete against each other in every sport the camp offered. That is where I developed my competitive spirit that later showed as I ran track in high school and college.

I attended James Ford Rhodes High School. In 2009, my senior year, I became the Indoor State Champion in the 60 meters, 200 meters, and 400 meters, becoming a Triple Crown Winner. In addition, I had All-Ohio and All-American honors during the outdoor track season, and was recruited by every Big Ten School. Of all these schools, I chose to accept a track scholarship from Penn State University. While at Penn State, I became a 5-time Big Ten Champion and a 5-time NCAA Division 1 All-American in the 100 meters, 200 meters, and 4 by 400 meter relay. I also pursued my passion for the current health care trends in the United States, earning my Bachelors in Health Policy Administration.

After college I continued my track career with a breakthrough performance as a member of the New Balance Distance Medley Relay in 2015. That relay set the World Record in the distance medly. The following year I competed in the 2016 Olympic USA Trials in the 200 meters. Competing in different parts of the world was also a great experience. My favorite places were Belgium, Victoria, and Puerto Rico. After my postcollegiate run, I began working at Cardinal Health in Twinsburg, OH as a Sales Support Administration, assisting customers with their medical supply needs. NYSP played a huge role in my life as I was able to develop character, social skills, and a competitive spirit.



*"NYSP
assisted with
my personal
and
professional
development."*

Brenden M. Dickerson

Program Manager, Digital Flagship, The Ohio State University

Since earning my Management degree from Miami University, I have worked in private and public sectors. In each position, I have planned and directed information technology initiatives ranging from organizational improvement to managing projects throughout all phases. NYSP (National Youth Sports Program) afforded me the opportunity to build character, develop competitive spirit, and understand the importance of intentional relationships. My favorite memory is the annual talent show because campers were able to showcase their skills in variety of ways. For many, this was an opportunity to put on display all of their skills they developed throughout camp!

Currently, I oversee the complex and large-scale implementation of the Ohio State University Mobile Design Lab and Digital From Day 1 Podcast program. Within this role, we partner with OSU, K-12 and external stakeholders to provide educational and technology outreach with sole purpose of encouraging early adoption of digital literacy skills for the modern 21st century workforce. In addition, my leadership skills have been essential as I served as the President of the Sport Leadership and Management Club at Miami University, and was nominated for Miami University 18 of Last 9 Award and received comSpark Central Ohio 30under30 Technology Power Player Award.

As we progress to a more technology driven world, the sense of community has shifted from communal to digital interactions. At times we have lost the ability to fellowship with one another and devote time to volunteerism. It has been my long-term goal to build a nonprofit organization that focuses on K-12 student-athletes by increasing data analysis, literacy, and awareness for individuals who come from diverse economic backgrounds. I attribute much of my success to my NYSP experience for assisting with my personal and professional development. Thank you!



Cicely D. Campbell MSW, LSW
Director, Women in Transition Program and Carl D. Perkins Grant
of Cuyahoga Community College

I have fond memories of my time participating as a NYSP camper during the summers of my youth. I always felt like I belonged and that I was part of a larger family. That especially meant a lot to me growing up as an only child. The relationships that I cultivated during that time turned into life-long friendships. My friends and I have supported each other through adulthood and now we watch our kids grow up together. In addition to the relationships formed, the camps nurtured my love of sports and instilled discipline. I recall coming home during college breaks and always being able to call Coach Harris for a place to workout. That discipline manifested into several state records and a full ride track and field athletic scholarship to Vanderbilt University. Some of my athletic accolades include: 6 consecutive AAU national championship titles through the ages 10-15 years old, 11 individual track and Field State meet championship titles, 4 team state meet Track and Field titles, 2 team state meet Cross Country titles, All- American High-School Athlete and all Southeast Conference (SEC) academic and athletic honors.

After my athletic career, I graduated from Vanderbilt with a Bachelors of Science in Human and Organizational Development and from George Warren Brown School of Social Work of Washington University with a masters in Social Work. I am currently the Director of the Women in Transition Program and the Carl D. Perkins Grant at Cuyahoga Community College and mother to the best son in the world, Jackson who is a current member of NYSP... The legacy continues!



*"NYSP helped
develop me
into a well-
rounded
athlete."*



Quentin M. Dickerson

Pastor, Musician, Entrepreneur

I'm a native of Elyria, Ohio, and am the eldest of four children born to parents Gary and Pricilla Dickerson. A graduate of Elyria High School, I grew up in a small, family-centered town. Known as "Pastor Q", I have an innate passion for helping people. Invested in serving others, I use my pastoral and musical gifts to edify and inspire others.

My ministry first began as a pianist, but my role as a musician laid the foundation for a much larger ministry. Many would say I'm not merely a gifted musician, but an anointed one, whose music supersedes the surface of silvery sounds, breaking barriers, by speaking comfort to the broken, healing to the hurting, liberation to the captives. God's given me a unique ability to impart the His Word through music, and this has garnered the interest of the illustrious National Baptist Convention and afforded me the opportunity to collaborate with other gospel musicians nationwide. My CD, "Welcome to My World", has been heard throughout the world and has even charted numerous times on the smooth jazz charts in the U.K.

While I recognized the importance of ministering through music, I've also realized that there is more to God's calling. I was called to the piano bench, but also to the pulpit. In 2008, I began preaching, and in 2009, I was licensed at my home church, Second Baptist Church (Elyria, Ohio) by Dr. Carl P. Small. After settling in Nashville, I originally joined the Crystal Fountain Church to serve in the music ministry. I presided over Wednesday night worship services and shortly thereafter, was appointed Dr. Graves' pastoral assistant. On June 5, 2017, I was ordained by Dr. Michael V. Graves.

From 2014-2016 I furthered my education, graduating from Welch College with a double major Biblical Theology and Christian Ministries, then from Liberty University with a Masters of Arts in Christian Leadership. Recently, in 2017 I founded "United Family Fellowship" a church in Nashville, Tennessee where I serve as lead pastor. Our church held its first service on Sunday, February 12th, 2017. Along with the growth of the church, my future plans include creating a non-profit organization to mentor youth through music production and performance. In addition to all of this, I'm also the co-owner of The Bean Bag Coffee & Tea Shop in Nashville. Eventually I want to open up an after-school program that will focus on educating youth about music business and other arts. Ultimately, my desire is to expand the global reach of United Family Fellowship and open up more locations of The Bean Bag Coffee & Tea shop.



Get Involved!

Physical Components:

Swimming (required)
Basketball
Track and Field
Soccer
Volleyball
Flag Football
Softball
Dance Aerobics
Badminton
Weight Training

Educational Components:

Math and Science
Reading and Writing
Nutrition and Personal Health
Communication
Career Opportunities /
Job Responsibilities
Civics Education

Contact Information:

Dennis Harris, *NYSP Director*

216 - 368 - 4843
nysp@case.edu

Campus Location:
174 Yost Hall
Cleveland, OH 44106

www.facebook.com/NYSP.CWRU/



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